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XXXIV.—*Additional Notes on the Ornithology of Transvaal.*

By THOMAS AYRES. Communicated by JOHN HENRY GURNEY.

(Continued from p. 300.)

325. *TURDUS LIBONYANUS*, Smith. Kurichane Thrush.

Male, Rustenburg, June 11th. Irides light umber; eyelids chrome-yellow; bill orange; tarsi and feet pale chrome-yellow.

Female, Rustenburg, May 28rd. Irides dusky umber; eyelids and bill bright orange; tarsi and feet as in the male.

This is the commonest Thrush in the Magaliesbergen, but is of more retiring habits than *T. letsitsirupa*; it is often found in small companies of three or four together, but is as often solitary.

PYCNONOTUS NIGRICANS (Vieill.). Brunoir Bulbul.

Male, Rustenburg, June 18th. Irides bright hazel; eyelids tumid and orange-coloured.

Male, Rustenburg, August 10th. Irides bright hazel; eyelids orange.

Two females, Rustenburg, July 23rd. Irides red-hazel; eyelids tumid and orange-yellow.

This species is very plentiful about the Magaliesbergen ; in the Potchefstroom district it is not nearly so common.

326. *PYCNONOTUS LAYARDI*, n. sp. Layard's Bulbul.

Four males, Rustenburg, June and July. Irides dusky umber or dark umber.

Female, Rustenburg, June 18th. Irides umber.

This species is equally plentiful about Rustenburg with the preceding one ; and both are almost always together in companies, feeding amicably, side by side, on the numerous berries which are on many of the bushes and trees. They are very fond of mobbing any strange bird they see, or a cat, and are useful on that account. Sometimes they make a great noise about a snake, an Owl, or a Hawk. When they begin to chatter, many other birds come at once to see what is the matter ; and one can always get a good bird or two by attending the call of assembly.

[Mr. Sharpe, in his second edition of Mr. Layard's ' Birds of South Africa,' only admits two South-African species of *Pycnonotus*, under the names of "*P. capensis*, Red-eyebrowed Bulbul," and "*P. tricolor*, Black-eyebrowed Bulbul;" he adds, " Although for the present admitting only two species of *Pycnonotus* in South Africa, we do not regard the matter as settled."

To me it appears that each of the above species admitted by Mr. Sharpe comprises two distinct races, capable of specific distinction, and that thus the entire number of species of this genus found in South Africa is in reality four.

This view has been already ably advocated by Mr. Layard in ' The Ibis ' for 1871, pp. 229, 230 ; and I believe that it is satisfactorily sustained by the result of subsequent observations.

Of these four species, two, viz. *P. capensis* and *P. tricolor*, have the crown of the head dark brown, whereas in the other two species it is a decided black. The brown of the breast comes much closer down to the yellow crissum in *P. capensis* than in the other three species ; but this peculiarity is not shown in Le Vaillant's figure (pl. 105) of his " Brunet,"

which, however, appears by the accompanying letterpress to be intended to represent *P. capensis*. Another inaccuracy in this plate is the tone of colouring of the brown portions of the plumage, which are represented as much more rufous than they are in nature. A more correct figure of *P. capensis* has been given by Mr. Dresser in his 'Birds of Europe;' but the specimens I have seen have the throat not so dark a brown, and the white on the abdomen less extended than is shown in Mr. Dresser's plate.

I have now before me three specimens of *P. capensis*, for the loan of which I am indebted to the kindness of Captain Shelley, by whom one of them was shot at Wellington, in the Cape colony, the other two being simply labelled "Cape—Butler."

In all these specimens the eyelids are white, agreeing with the description of this species given in the first edition of Mr. Layard's work, in which the eyelids are spoken of as "surrounded by a white fringe," and with "the white eyelid" subsequently ascribed by Mr. Layard to this species in 'The Ibis' for 1871, p. 230.

Captain Shelley, however, in a note which he has been good enough to write to me respecting these birds, says, "The only specimen I shot of *P. capensis* was at Wellington, Cape Colony; the eyelids were black, with a very faint reddish tinge;" and I also observe that one of Captain Shelley's other specimens, obtained at the Cape, has been labelled by the collector, "beak and legs blackish, iris reddish brown, edge of eyelid vine-red."

It would seem, therefore, that in this species the colour of the eyelid alters and becomes white after the skin has been preserved, as has been already pointed out by Mr. Sharpe at p. 207 of the second edition of Mr. Layard's work.

The second (and, as it seems to me, quite distinct) species, which has been united to *P. capensis* in Sharpe's edition of Layard, is *P. nigricans* of Vieillot, which was founded on Le Vaillant's "Brunoir" (pl. 106. fig. 1). This figure represents a species which, according to Le Vaillant, "ne se trouve pas dans les environs du cap de Bonne-Espérance, ni

dans aucune partie de la côte de l'est, au lieu qu'il est très-abondant dans le pays des Namaquois, notamment depuis la Grande Rivière jusque vers le tropique," and which he thus describes:—"Sa tête et sa gorge seulement sont noires; tout le reste du plumage est d'un brun terreux, plus foncé sur les ailes et la queue; couleur qui s'éclaircit sur la poitrine et qui blanchit totalement au ventre; les couvertures du dessous de la queue sont d'un jaune citron; les yeux, d'un brun foncé, sont entourés d'une paupière orangée d'une demi-ligne d'épaisseur; le bec et les pieds sont brunâtres."

This description, which is much more accurate than the figure that it accompanies, agrees very well (except that the bill should have been described as black, the feet also as black, or very nearly so, and the irides as reddish brown) with the *Pycnonotus*, which is found (sometimes with a yellow, but more often with an orange, tumid eyelid) from Damaraland to the west, as far eastward as Transvaal, thus occupying a more northerly range than that inhabited by *P. capensis*, which seems not to extend beyond the Cape colony.

I may add that the colour of the eyelid appears to be more permanent in specimens of *P. nigricans* than in those of *P. capensis*. I have before me two that were obtained in 1876, in which the orange-yellow circle round the eye is still conspicuous; and though, no doubt, this colour gradually fades, it does not become white, as is the case with the eyelid of *P. capensis*.

P. nigricans associates in Transvaal with a third, nearly allied species, which appears to be the only *Pycnonotus* inhabiting Natal, whence it extends northwards to Zanzibar, and southwards (according to Mr. Layard, *Ibis*, 1871, p. 230) to Graham's Town.

In 'The Ibis' for 1860, p. 209, I referred this species to *P. nigricans*, to which Captain Shelley also referred it in 'The Ibis' for 1875, p. 74; but in 'The Ibis' for 1873, p. 255, I referred it to *P. tricolor*, under which head it is also comprised in Sharpe's edition of Layard.

Subsequent investigation has convinced me that this *Pycnonotus* is, as stated by Mr. Layard in 'The Ibis' for 1871,

pp. 229, 230, distinct from both *P. nigricans* and *P. tricolor*, and also from *P. capensis*; and as Mr. Layard unfortunately did not give it a specific name, I propose to call it, after him, *Pycnonotus layardi*.

The nearest allies of *P. layardi* appear to me to be *P. nigricans* and the more northern *P. xanthopygus*. From *P. nigricans* it seems only to differ in the throat (as distinguished from the chin) being dark brown instead of black, in the eyelids being (to use the words of Captain Shelley in 'The Ibis' for 1875, p. 74) "black, thick, but not wattled," and in the iris being, as observed by Mr. Ayres, "umber," or "dusky umber," instead of "red-hazel," or "bright hazel," or, in the words of Mr. Andersson, "rather pale yellowish red"*.

In Mr. Dresser's article in the 'Birds of Europe' on *P. xanthogypus*, he points out the differences between that species and *P. layardi*, speaking, however, of the latter as "*P. nigricans*."

In company with Mr. Sharpe, I have recently compared a Transvaal specimen of *P. layardi* with the type of *P. tricolor* from Angola, which is preserved in the British Museum; and I believe I may state Mr. Sharpe now agrees with me in considering the two specifically distinct.

In *P. tricolor* the upper surface of the head is a decided brown, scarcely darker than the brown of the back, whilst in *P. layardi* it forms a distinct black cap; the entire mantle is a purer and richer brown in *P. tricolor* than in *P. layardi*, in which latter it is slightly tinged with greyish olive. *P. tricolor* also differs from *P. layardi* in the almost entire absence of any tinge of black from the sides of the head and from the chin, and in the much more sharply defined boundary between the brown of the breast and the white of the abdomen, as shown in the figure of this species in the P. Z. S. 1871, pl. 7. fig. 2.

P. tricolor appears to be entirely a South-west African form, ranging from the Congo to Damaraland, which appears to be its southern limit.

It may be serviceable to add the following measurements,

* 'Birds of Damara Land,' p. p. 120.

taken from specimens of *P. capensis*, *P. nigricans*, *P. layardi*, and *P. tricolor*, which have either been kindly lent to me by Captain Shelley or are in my own possession.

	Bill.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
<i>P. capensis.</i>				
Three specimens, sex not marked, from Cape Colony.	{ .65 to .70	{ 3.75 to 3.85	{ 3.30 to 3.50	.90
<i>P. nigricans</i> .*				
Male and female, Damaraland ..	.60	3.80	3.	.80
Five males, from Transvaal	{ .60 to	{ 3.90 to	{ 3.30 to	.80
	.72	4.	3.50	.90
Three females, from Transvaal ..	{ .60 to	{ 3.70 to	{ 3.20 to	.85
	.62	3.90	3.30	.90
<i>P. layardi.</i>				
From Pangani River, sex not marked	.60	3.60	3.10	.85
Two specimens, sex not marked, from Daru Salam †.	{ .50 and .62	{ 3.60 and 3.50	{ 3. and 3.20	.80
From Zanzibar, sex not marked. .	.65	3.90	3.50	.90
Male, Swaziland	.70	3.85	3.40	.90
Five males, from Transvaal	{ .65 to	{ 3.80 to	{ 3.40 to	.90
	.70	4.10	3.60	
Two females, from Transvaal	.62	3.80	3.30	.90
Three males, from Natal	{ .62 to	{ 3.90 to	{ 3.40 to	.90
	.65	3.95	3.60	
Female, from Natal	.60	3.70	3.40	.90

* The late Mr. Andersson, in an unpublished note, now in my possession, referring to specimens of *P. nigricans* obtained by him in Damaraland, gives the following measurements:—

“Average Dimensions of ten Males and Females.

	inches.	lines.
Entire length	7	5
Length of wing when folded	3	8
Tarsus		9
Middle toe		7½
Tail	3	3
Bill		10.”

† It is remarkable that these two specimens, which were obtained by the late Mr. E. C. Buxton on the mainland opposite Zanzibar, and that

	Bill.	Wing.	Tail.	Tarsus.
<i>P. tricolor.</i>				
Male, from Landana, Congo . . .	·60	3·75	3·20	·90

I may mention that the above lists comprise specimens of *P. nigricans* killed in January, May, June, July, August, and October—and of *P. layardi* in February, March, June, July, and September—showing that the differences between these two species are not merely seasonal.—J. H. G.]

327. CRATEROPUS JARDINII, Smith. Jardine's Babbler.

Male, Rustenburg, May 29th. Irides with a crimson outer ring and an orange inner ring; bill black; tarsi and feet dark ash-colour.

Female, Rustenburg, May 29th. Resembling the male, but with the outer ring of the irides scarlet.

This Babbler is common about the mountains, where it is found in companies.

CRATEROPUS BICOLOR, Jardine. Southern Pied Babbler.

Male, near Rustenburg, June 24th. Irides orange, fading into light yellow at the outer edge; bill black, tarsi and feet dark dusky brown.

Female, near Rustenburg, June 26th. Irides brownish orange; bill, tarsi, and feet as in the male.

This is a much scarcer species than the preceding one, and also much more wary. I met with two or three companies near the Eland's river, a tributary of the Crocodile river; but it was with some difficulty that I shot the two specimens sent.

MONTICOLA BREVIPES, Waterh. Short-footed Rock-Thrush.

Male adult. Irides dusky; bill, tarsi, and feet dingy black.

This species is widely distributed about the mountains, but is not very common.

COSSYPHA HUMERALIS, Smith. White-shouldered Chat-Thrush.

The bird sent was killed in February by my brother at Rus-

 from the Pangani River, in the same district, should be so much smaller than the next specimen, which is said to have been obtained at Zanzibar itself on the Zanzibar island.

tenburg ; when I was there, later in the year, I did not meet with this species, and rather think it is more plentiful during our summer than in the winter months. It inhabits dense thickets.

[Some years since Mr. Ayres sent me a specimen of this Chat-Thrush from Natal, which, by some accident, was not included in my lists of birds received from that colony.—J. H. G.]

THAMNOBIA CINNAMOMEIVENTRIS, Lafr. Southern White-shouldered Bush-Chat.

Male and female, killed 27th May. Irides dusky ; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

This is a very local species : I met with it but once amongst the mountains of Rustenburg ; and that was in a precipitous and well-wooded ravine on the south side of Oliphant's Nek. There must have been at least a dozen of these birds together ; but I only got two ; one more I killed, but could not find ; they fell amongst deep crevices in the rocks, and were by no means easy to retrieve. After I had fired three or four times they flew further up the gorge, and I saw them no more.

MYRMECOCICHLA FORMICIVORA (Vieill.). Southern Ant-eating Wheatear.

Female, shot in July.

This species is common on all the open country near Rustenburg, especially on the Town.

[In both editions of Mr. Layard's work it is stated that the female "wants the white shoulders;" but in the present specimen they are present, as in the male. In both sexes this white patch on the ridge of the wing does not quite reach to the carpal joint.—J. H. G.]

SAXICOLA GALTONI (Strickl.). Familiar Wheatear.

Male and female. Irides dusky umber ; tarsi and feet black.

This is a very common species throughout the Rustenburg district, and exceedingly familiar and tame. Two or three pairs may be seen close to every farmstead ; and almost every separate clump of bush along the roadsides holds its pair ;

from the tops of the mountains to the lowest dales this inconspicuous little fellow is to be found.

So far as I know, I have never met with it near Potchefstroom, though a specimen obtained at a distance of fifteen miles from thence has been recorded in 'The Ibis' for 1877, p. 343.

SAXICOLA LEUCOMELÆNA, Burch. Burchell's Wheatear.

Male, shot June 22rd. Irides dusky; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

This is a very local species about the Magaliesbergen. I found half a dozen of these Wheatears on the Hex river, amongst some rocks, about ten miles from Rustenburg; these, and one or two others amongst some rocks near Eland's river, were all I came across during my stay in the Rustenburg district.

[In 'The Ibis' for 1878, at pp. 291 to 294, I described four Wheatears sent by Mr. Ayres, which all appeared to be referable to this species. The specimen now sent agrees in the distribution of its colours with the third example described as above, except that the black centres to some of the feathers on the white shoulder-spot are smaller and less conspicuous; the dark portions of the plumage are also less black and more tinged with brown, very much resembling the corresponding parts in the fourth specimen described by me last year. The bird now sent was moulting when killed; and a new central rectrice is of a much deeper black than the adjacent ones, which are old and apparently faded; the same circumstance is also observable in the tertials of both wings.—J. H. G.]

ORIOLES LARVATUS, Licht. Masked Oriole.

Male and female adult, shot 22nd July and 3rd August. Irides crimson; bill flesh-colour; tarsi and feet pale dusky ash-colour.

A younger female, shot 22nd July. Irides reddish brown; bill black; tarsi and feet as in the adult.

This Oriole is not uncommon in the wooded parts of the Rustenburg mountains, but is somewhat shy and wary.

[The adult male sent agrees in coloration with the description of that sex given by Mr. Sharpe in 'The Ibis' for 1870, p. 224. The older female has the forehead and cere sprinkled with minute particles of greenish yellow dust, which prevents the forehead from presenting an appearance of pure black; otherwise this female does not differ in coloration from the male. The younger female differs in having all the black feathers on the crown of the head slightly edged with greenish yellow, which is more conspicuous towards the forehead than towards the nape; the feathers of the chin and throat have black centres, with greenish yellow edges; and many of the yellow feathers of the upper breast also have black centres, which are most conspicuous in the feathers nearest the throat. —J. H. G.]

328. *JUIDA PHŒNICOPTERA*, Swains. Flame-shouldered Grakle.

Male and female. Irides orange; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

This is the commonest of the Grakles; the whole country about Rustenburg is alive with them.

JUIDA MORIO (Daud.). Roupenne Grakle.

This is also a very common species in the Rustenburg district, feeding on the various berries with which the bush abounds.

DILOPHUS CARUNCULATUS (Gmel.). Grey Starling.

This species is not uncommon, and is often seen in company with *Juida phœnicoptera*.

FISCUS COLLARIS (Linn.). Fiscal Shrike.

This is one of the commonest birds all over the Magaliesbergen, where it is to be met with either singly or in pairs.

329. *FISCUS SUBCORONATUS* (Smith). Coronetted Shrike.

Male, shot at Potchefstroom 23rd of March.

UROLESTES CISOIDES (Licht.). Long-tailed Shrike.

This is a somewhat local species; here and there amongst the bushy hills one may come across a small company of these Shrikes.

NILAUS BRUBRU (Lath.). Brubru Shrike.

This species is generally distributed, but is not very common in the Rustenburg district; it is mostly a solitary bird, and may be found hunting for insects about the foliage of the trees.

330. POMATORHYNCHUS ERYTHROPTERUS (Shaw). Rufous-winged Bush-Shrike.

(A) Female, Rustenburg, June 3rd. Irides bluish slate-colour; bill black; tarsi and feet very light slate-colour.

(B) Female, Rustenburg, July 18th.

(C) Female, Rustenburg, August 9th. Bill black; tarsi and feet light ash-colour. Total length $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

(D) Female, Rustenburg, August 16th. Irides slaty blue; bill black; tarsi and feet light ash-colour. Grasshoppers in the stomach.

This Shrike is not uncommon; it frequents the low bush, and is an adept at hiding.

[I have taken the following measurements of the four specimens sent by Mr. Ayres:—

	Wing.	Tarsus.	Tail.
A	3.80	1.20	3.80
B	3.55	1.10	3.90
C	3.70	1.20	3.90
D	3.60	1.10	3.80

—J. H. G.]

331. POMATORHYNCHUS TRIVIRGATUS (Smith). Three-streaked Bush-Shrike.

(A) Sex uncertain.

(B) Ditto, Rustenburg, June 24th. Irides dusky hazel; bill light dusky brown, with the basal part of the under mandible pale; tarsi and feet light ash-colour.

(C) Female, Rustenburg, July 8th. Irides dark hazel; bill dusky brown; tarsi and feet pale ash-colour.

(D) Female, Rustenburg, August.

This species appears to be about equally numerous with the preceding one, and inhabits similar situations.

[The following are measurements taken from the above-named four specimens of *P. trivirgatus*:—

	Wing.	Tarsus.	Tail.
A	3·	1·10	3·60
B	3·10	1·10	3·50
C	3·10	1·	3·30
D	3·10	1·10	3·40

These measurements, and those of the preceding species, may be compared with the tables of dimensions given at pp. 152 and 150 of Andersson's 'Birds of Damara Land.'

The four specimens of *P. erythropterus* have the crown of the head black, and the four of *P. trivirgatus* have it brown, showing the usual distinction between the two species in that respect.—J. H. G.]

332. DRYOSCOPUS CUBLA (Shaw). South-African Puff-Shrike.

Male, Rustenburg, June 11th. Irides red.

Female, Rustenburg, June 6th. Irides orange.

Female, Rustenburg, August 9th. Irides dull crimson.

These birds are not uncommon amongst the bush on the Rustenburg mountains. They are generally in pairs; and their habits are shy and retiring; their note much resembles that of *Oriolus larvatus*.

LANIARIUS* BOULBOUL (Shaw). Boulboul Shrike.

Male. Irides very dark umber; bill dusky, ashy at the base; tarsi ash-colour.

Female. Irides umber; bill black; tarsi and feet dingy black.

This is also a shy and retiring species; it is not uncommon in dense thickets.

[In the female bird mentioned above, which was shot on 6th June, the black of the upper parts is very nearly as dark and rich as that of the accompanying male, and the fawn-colour of the underparts is more so; the white bar on the wing is as distinct in this female (which is probably quite an

* [In Mr. Sharpe's 'Catalogue of African Birds,' 1871, this species is referred to the genus *Dryoscopus*; but it seems to me that it cannot be generically separated from the succeeding species (*atrococcineus*), which Mr. Sharpe, in the same work, refers to the genus *Laniarius*.—J. H. G.]

old bird) as in the male ; this does not entirely accord with the description of the female given in the first edition of Mr. Layard's work.—J. H. C.]

LANIARIUS ATROCOCCINEUS (Burch.). Southern Crimson-breasted Shrike.

Male, Rustenburg, June 25th. Irides dusky umber ; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

This handsome Shrike is decidedly a local species : in some parts of the Magaliesbergen it is tolerably plentiful ; but in other parts equally good-looking cover does not hold a specimen ; in the more northern portions of the district it becomes much more plentiful. According to my experience it is an exceedingly shy bird.

PRIONOPS TALACOMA, Smith. Smith's Flycatcher Shrike.

Male, Rustenburg, July 26th. Irides pale gamboge ; eyelids orange ; bill black ; tarsi and feet orange.

These birds are sparingly found in small companies throughout the wooded parts of the Rustenburg district. They are extremely wild and difficult to approach after being shot at once or twice.

BRADYORNIS SILENS (Shaw). Silent Flycatcher.

This species is tolerably plentiful about Rustenburg ; and I may also mention that on the 26th October I took its nest and eggs near Potchefstroom. The nest was in my garden, placed about eight feet from the ground, on the top of a rough post, sheltered by grape-vines. It was cup-shaped and rough in structure, composed of dry grass, rags, and feathers, giving it a generally white appearance, with bits of wool, fluffy grass-seeds, and finer feathers inside. The eggs, three in number, were of a pale tawny or dingy white, faintly but uniformly marked with very pale brown ; they varied slightly in colour and size, measuring respectively $\frac{1}{4}\frac{1}{8}$ of an inch by $\frac{1}{3}\frac{1}{2}$, $\frac{1}{3}\frac{3}{8}$ by $\frac{1}{3}\frac{1}{2}$, and $\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{9}{16}$. Considering the size of the bird, the egg is small and delicate ; it somewhat resembles that of *Motacilla capensis*.

[Mr. Ayres sends five specimens of this Flycatcher :—one an adult male, a second a female just losing the plumage de-

scribed by Mr. Sharpe in vol. iii. of his British-Museum 'Catalogue,' p. 313, as "young;" a third specimen, sex not marked, answering to Mr. Sharpe's description of the "adult female;" the fourth a female in similar plumage, but with a single white feather on the crown of the head; and, fifthly, an older female, also with an aberrant white feather on the crown, which resembles the adult male in the extent of white on the wings and tail, and is a dull black (not brown, as the other females) on the upper surface.—J. H. G.]

333. *BRADYORNIS ATER*, Sund. Southern Black Flycatcher.

Male and female, Rustenburg. Irides dusky; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

This species is generally found in pairs; it is not very common.

[I recently had an opportunity of comparing the female above mentioned with the Damara specimen in the British Museum referred by Mr. Sharpe (*op. cit.* p. 314) to his "*Bradyornis diabolicus*;" and they appeared to me to be identical. My impression is that *B. diabolicus* is not a good species.—J. H. G.]

*BUCHANGA ASSIMILIS** (Bechst.). Musical Drongo.

Dicrurus musicus, Vieill.

Male. Irides bright crimson; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

This species is generally spread all over the Rustenburg district. It has a great variety of notes.

334. *BATIS MOLITOR* (Hahn & Küst). Hahn's Flycatcher.

Male and female. Irides pale yellow; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

This is the commonest of the Flycatchers about Rustenburg, though one very seldom sees more than a pair together, and appears to be pretty generally distributed in the district wherever there is bush. The note of this species is extremely loud, considering the size of the bird.

BATIS CAPENSIS (Linn.). Molenaar Flycatcher.

Male, Rustenburg, July 26th. Irides dark gamboge-yellow,

* *Conf.* Sharpe's Brit. Mus. Cat. vol. iii. p. 247.

changing almost immediately after death to orange-yellow; bill black; tarsi dusky (almost black); feet ash-colour.

This is a decidedly scarce bird in the Magaliesbergen; it frequents the same localities as the preceding species, and has much the same restless habits.

STENOSTIRA SCITA (Vicill.). Mignard Flycatcher.

Male, Rustenburg, June 18th. Irides dusky; bill, tarsi, and feet black.

This very small bird is often seen hunting assiduously for minute insects amongst the foliage of bushes and trees; it is generally solitary, and I have never seen more than two together.

EREMOMELA USTICOLLIS, Sund. Brown-throated Bush-chirper.

Male, Rustenburg, June 28th. Irides tawny white; bill, pale, with the ridge dusky; tarsi and feet pale russet.

335. EREMOMELA HEMIXANTHA, Seebohm, n. sp. Rustenburg Bush-chirper.

One specimen not sexed, Rustenburg, June 13th. Irides pale chrome; bill black; tarsi ashy, gradually assuming light brown at the feet.

Two males and one specimen with the sex not noted, Rustenburg, July 24th. Irides pale chrome-yellow.

Female, Rustenburg, July 23rd. Irides very pale tawny-yellow; bill black; tarsi dusky brown, assuming light reddish brown at the feet.

This species is found in small companies.

[I have submitted the specimens sent by Mr. Ayres to the examination of Canon Tristram, Mr. Sharpe, and Mr. Seebohm, who all agree with me in considering them as belonging to a species hitherto undescribed; and the last-named gentleman has been good enough to draw up the following detailed description of it; the specific name of *hemixantha* has been selected as indicative of the yellow colouring of the lower half of the body.—J. H. G.]

“General colour of the upper parts greyish brown, slightly suffused with olive-green, especially on the wings, and shading

into greenish yellow on the crown and forehead. Lores and ear-coverts greyish brown. Wings and wing-coverts brown, each feather having a narrow pale edge to the outside web. Tail-feathers brown, with narrow pale edges, broadest and best-defined on the outside feathers.

“Underparts an almost uniform sulphur-yellow, slightly paler on the chin, axillaries, and under wing-coverts. Inner lining of quills pale buffish brown.

“Bill Sylviine, but with no perceptible dental notch or undulation, both mandibles dark brown, nearly black. Rictal bristles very small.

“Wing with the fourth primary rather the longest. Second primary generally intermediate in length between the seventh and eighth, occasionally between the eighth and ninth, and occasionally equal to the seventh. Bastard primary narrow, sometimes half as long as the second primary, but generally less than half.

“Legs dusky brown, feet and claws reddish brown. Iris pale chrome-yellow. Tarsus scutellated in front.

“Length of wing 2·36 to 2·27 inches, tail 1·95 to 1·86, culmen ·52 to ·5, tarsus ·73.

“Tail-feathers twelve, of which the outer ones are from ·2 to ·15, shorter than the longest.

“There appears to be no difference in the sexes. Five skins in the possession of Mr. Gurney were obtained by Mr. Ayres at Rustenburg, in the Transvaal, between 13th June and 24th July; and two skins in the possession of Capt. Shelley were obtained by Mr. Lucas in the same locality, one on 9th June and the other 10th August. All the skins obtained are probably those of birds in winter plumage.”

ZOSTEROPS SUNDEVALLI, Hartl. Sundevall's Zosterops.

Male, Rustenburg, August 6th. Irides light brown; bill horny black, with the basal part of the lower mandible blue ash-colour.

Female, Rustenburg, August 7. Irides and bill as in male; tarsi and feet brownish ash-colour.

ZOSTEROPS VIRENS, Sund. Green Zosterops.

Sex uncertain, Rustenburg, June 29th. Irides tawny-yellow.

This and the three preceding species (*Eremomela usticollis*, *E. hemixantha*, and *Zosterops sundevalli*) are equally common about the wooded parts of the Rustenburg district. Each species is generally found in small companies; each has the same habits of creeping and hanging about the leaves and buds of trees in search of insects; each appears to have a low melancholy weeping note; and the flight of each is much the same: it is not easy at a little distance to distinguish the species.

[To be continued.]

XXXV.—*Ornithological Notes from the Neighbourhood of Cape San Antonio, Buenos Ayres.* By ERNEST GIBSON, F.Z.S.

[IN explanation of the small number of species here recorded and noted on, I have only to say that it seemed better to merely write on those with which I was well acquainted, leaving all others for a future paper. Several I had not yet succeeded in identifying; and regarding others my data are too insufficient to work upon, or are wanting in some essential particulars. As a resident in the locality also, and not merely a visitor, I think I am justified in the postponement of all such incomplete notes.

To Mr. Salvin I am indebted for the identification of my bird-skins; and I also take the opportunity of acknowledging the valuable assistance and many kindnesses received from Mr. J. A. Harvie Brown, of Dunipace, during the six years of my residence in Buenos Ayres.]

A few words regarding the locality and the nature of the district may be useful, as indicating what classes of birds are to be found, and in what relative proportions.

Our land ("estancia," or stock-farm) is situated just inside Cape San Antonio, and is bounded on the north by the estuary of the River Plate. A neighbour holds the adjoining piece of land, on which is the cape itself, while his eastern